

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FBO-02 A-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 SCA-01 CPR-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /058 W
----- 008145 /14

P 141610Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3729
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 4644

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, AO, US, DA
SUBJECT: CONGEN OFFICE SPACE IN LUANDA

REF: (A) STATE 297811, (B) COPENHAGEN 4571

1. F.L. SCHMIDT HEADQUARTERS ARRANGED MEETING BETWEEN DCM AND
JORGE DE SEQUIRA, MEMBER OF BOARD OF SECIL COMPANY TODAY, DEC 14.
FOLLOWING FACTS EMERGED FROM MEETING:

A. SECIL IS PORTUGUESE HOLDING COMPANY IN LISBON IN WHICH
F.L. SCHMIDT AND HOJGAARD & SCHULTZ, DANISH FIRMS, HOLD
MINORITY INTEREST. ALL DIRECTORS ARE PORTUGUESE, EXCEPT MR.
BARBAROSA, A CAPE VERDIAN, WHO IS PRESIDENT.

B. SECIL IN LISBON OWNS SECIL "OUTRE-MER", WHICH IN LUANDA
OPERATES NOT ONLY 15-FLOOR OFFICE BUILDING, BUT ALSO
PAINT AND BICYCLE FACTORIES AND CEMENT PLANT WHERE DANISH TECH-
NICIANS FROM SCHMIDT WERE EMPLOYED AND WILL SOON BE SENT AGAIN.

C. IN OFFICE BUILDING, SECIL OCCUPIES THREE FLOORS; SHELL,
THREE FLOORS, ANGOLAN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (MOT), TWO FLOORS;
AND US CONGEN, TWO FLOORS. OTHER SPACE IS OCCUPIED BY PRIVATE
PORTUGUESE FIRMS.

2. SEQUIRA EXPLAINED THAT ANGOLAN MOT WANTED TO TAKE OVER CONGEN
SPACE FOR EXPANSION OF ITS OFFICES. APPARENTLY OFFICE
BUILDING IS ONLY ONE IN LUANDA WHERE UTILITIES OPERATE EFFICIENTLY
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AND THERE IS PRESSURE FROM ALL SIDES TO MOVE IN. SEQUIRA ADDED

THAT FUTURE DUTCH EMBASSY WOULD BE INITIALLY HOUSED IN SHELL OFFICE AND DANISH EMBASSY IN SECIL OFFICE. HE SURMISED THAT MOT KNEW THAT CONGEN FLOORS WERE UNOCCUPIED AND THAT THEREFORE TRANSPORT MINISTER HAD ASKED ANGOLAN MFA TO MOVE US OUT.

3. SEQUIRA ADDED THAT SECIL'S OPERATIONS DEPENDED ON GOOD WILL OF MOT WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, REGULATES HARBOR CHARGES. HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT SECIL DIRECTORS WOULD THEREFORE WISH TO INTERVENE WITH MOT ON OUR BEHALF BUT HE DID SUGGEST THAT PERHAPS MOT WOULD BE CONTENT WITH HALF OF OUR SPACE, LEAVING THE REST FOR STORAGE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF MOT DEMANDED ALL OF OUR SPACE, HE SAID THAT SECIL WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE STORAGE SPACE FOR OUR FURNITURE.

4. SEQUIRA LEFT TODAY FOR LISBON WHERE HE CAN BE REACHED IF NECESSARY AT THE SECIL OFFICES ON THE RUE CONSELLEIRO FERNANDO DE SOUSA.

5. COMMENT: AFTER THIS INTERVIEW, DCM REPORTED WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED TO DANISH MFA WITH SUGGESTION THAT IT APPEARED THAT NEITHER F.L. SCHMIDT NOR SECIL COULD BRING MUCH PRESSURE TO BEAR ON GOA. AMBASSADOR DYVIG, ACTING POL DIRECTOR IN MFA, SAID HE WOULD THEREFORE DISCUSS POSSIBILITY WITH FONMIN ANDERSEN OF DANES SENDING A DIRECT MESSAGE TO ANGOLAN MFA. DYVIG POINTED OUT AGAIN THAT THE DANES WOULD LIKE TO HELP US BUT DID NOT WANT TO USE THEIR HONORARY CONSUL AND HAD NO ONE ELSE ON THE SPOT WHO COULD HELP OUT. DYVIG WILL CALL US TOMORROW AND TELL US THE TYPE OF MESSAGE THE FONMIN PLANS TO SEND, IF ANY. GUIDANCE REQUESTED REF B STILL NOT RECEIVED. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW ANY FURTHER DETAILS THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, LEASED BUILDINGS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COPENH04644
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760461-0531
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761246/aaaabnew.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 297811, 76 COPENHAGEN 4571
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <19 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGEN OFFICE SPACE IN LUANDA
TAGS: PFOR, ABLD, AO, US, DA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006